

USSN 09/840 640

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows:

1.(Currently amended) Stairway, comprising a pair of laterally spaced apart elongated stringers adapted to be disposed between levels of the building and a plurality of integral riser surfaces and integral tread surfaces extending between said stringers so as to form steps, said stringers, riser surfaces and tread surfaces being formed as one-piece of plastic material, and further comprising a plurality of individual preformed tread members with a respective individual tread member fastened on a respective one of the tread surfaces.

2.(Canceled)

3.(original) The stairway of claim 1 including a joist attachment member disposed in a laterally extending channel formed integrally on the rear side of a topmost riser surface between the stringers.

4.(original) The stairway of claim 3 wherein said fastening member is a wooden member received in said channel.

5.(original) The stairway of claim 3 wherein said channel is formed in-situ about said fastening member.

6.(original) The stairway of claim 1 wherein each stringer includes a first upstanding wall and a laterally extending wall.

7.(currently amended) The stairway of claim 6 wherein said laterally extending wall includes post-receiving receptacles formed integrally therein to receive handrail support posts.

USSN 09/840 640

8.(original) The stairway of claim 6 wherein each stringer further includes a second upstanding wall extending upwardly from said laterally extending wall.

9.(original) The stairway of claim 6 wherein each stringer further includes an outermost wall that extends downwardly from said laterally extending wall.

10.(original) The stairway of claim 9 wherein a cover panel is fastened to a lowermost edge of said outermost wall.

11.(original) The stairway of claim 6 wherein a reinforcing gusset is disposed between said first upstanding wall and said laterally extending wall.

12.(original) The stairway of claim 1 wherein said plastic material comprises one or more outer filled resin layers and one or more inner fiber reinforced filled resin layers applied on the outer filler resin layer(s).

13.(original) The stairway of claim 12 wherein said one or more outer filled resin layers each comprises a synthetic resin and mineral particles and said one or more inner fiber reinforced resin layers each comprises a resin, mineral particles and chopped fibers.

14.(original) The stairway of claim 1 wherein said tread surfaces are configured to include an integral reinforcement.

15.(original) The stairway of claim 14 wherein said integral reinforcement comprises a rib extending along a length of each tread surface and having a concave cross-sectional configuration residing below a plane defined by said tread surface.

USSN 09/840 640

16.(original) The stairway of claim 2 wherein said preformed tread members comprise an outer ceramic filled gelcoat layer and a fiber reinforced filled resin layer under said gelcoat layer.

17.(original) The stairway of claim 2 wherein said preformed tread members include an integral bull nose that depends downwardly to overlap the adjacent riser surface located therebelow.

18.(original) The stairway of claim 2 wherein said preformed tread members include a plurality of fasteners and said tread surface includes a plurality of holes to receive a respective fastener.

[[18]] 19. The stairway of claim 18 wherein a lower surface of each said preformed tread member includes a plurality of pilot protrusions that are received in a respective one of said holes in said underlying tread surface.

20.(original) The stairway of claim 18 wherein said fasteners include an enlarged fastener head captured in each tread member and a threaded shank received in a respective hole of said tread surface.

21.(original) The stairway of claim 18 wherein said fasteners each include an enlarged fastener head captured in said landing member and a threaded shank received in a respective hole of said landing surface.

22.(Currently amended) In a building having an upper level and a lower level, a prefabricated stairway disposed between said levels and comprising a pair of laterally spaced apart elongated stringers fastened at an upper region to a joist of said upper level and a plurality of integral riser surfaces and integral tread surfaces

USSN 09/840 640

extending between said the stringers so as to form steps, said stringers, riser surfaces and tread surfaces being formed as one-piece of plastic material, and further comprising a plurality of individual preformed tread members with a respective individual tread member fastened on a respective one of the tread surfaces.

23. (Canceled)

24. (original) The stairway of claim 22 including a joist attachment member disposed in a laterally extending channel formed integrally on the rear side of a topmost riser surface between the stringer sections.

25. (original) The stairway of claim 24 wherein said attachment member is a wooden member received in said channel and fastened to said joist.

26. (original) A method of making a stairway, comprising spraying plastic material on a mold surface to form a one-piece stairway comprising a pair of laterally spaced apart stringers and a plurality of integral riser surfaces and integral tread surfaces forming steps, independently forming a plurality of preformed tread members, and fastening a respective one of said preformed tread members on a tread surface of said stairway.

27. (original) The method of claim 26 wherein said plastic material comprises an outer filled resin layer is provided on said mold followed by providing a plurality of fiber reinforced filled resin layers on said filled resin layer.

28. (original) The method of claim 27 wherein said outer filled resin layer comprises a synthetic resin and mineral particles and said inner fiber reinforced resin layer comprises a resin, mineral particles and chopped fibers.

USSN 09/840 640

29. (Currently amended) Combination of a stairway having a plurality of treads made of a material selected from the group consisting of wood, metal, and concrete and at least one preformed tread member comprising plastic material fastened on at least one tread, said plastic material comprising an outer ceramic filled gelcoat layer and a fiber mat reinforced resin layer under said outer ceramic filled gelcoat layer.

30. (original) The combination of claim 29 wherein the tread member has a color that is different from the steps.

31. (original) The combination of claim 29 wherein the tread member is fastened on a worn or damaged tread of said stairway.

32. (Currently amended) A method of repairing a worn or damaged tread of a stairway made of a material selected from the group consisting of wood, metal, and concrete by fastening a preformed tread member comprising plastic material on said tread, said plastic material comprising an outer ceramic filled gelcoat layer and a fiber mat reinforced resin layer under said outer ceramic filled gelcoat layer.

33. (new) The stairway of claim 29 wherein said at least one preformed tread member includes a fastener having a fastener head captured therein.